

# MONSTER MASH

## DRACULA, FRANKENSTEIN, WOLF MAN, A TIMELINE...

**1818** *Frankenstein, Or The Modern Prometheus*, published anonymously by Mary Godwin, scandalous teen aged mistress of the poet Shelley. Later republished as by Mary Shelley, respectable widow of the poet Shelley.

**1897** *Dracula*, by Bram Stoker, published.

**1910** Thomas Edison makes the first *Frankenstein* film, with Charles Ogle as The Monster.

**1913** First film called *The Werewolf*.

**1922** *Nosferatu*, with Max Schreck as Dracula, renamed Graf Orlok in a vain attempt to avoid paying film rights to Stoker's litigious widow.

**1931** Universal's *Dracula*, with Bela Lugosi - replacing just-dead horror star Lon Chaney (Senior) - as the "double-jointed and Hungarian" Count; Universal also made the exact same script in Spanish, with Carlos Villarias. Sequels focused on the Count's relations - *Dracula's Daughter* (1936) and *Son Of Dracula* (1943) - but John Carradine was the Count in *House Of Frankenstein* (1944) and *House Of Dracula* (1945) and Lugosi came back to wind up the series in *Abbott And Costello Meet Frankenstein* (1948). Also, Boris Karloff puts on the flat-head and big boots for James Whale's *Frankenstein*, creates the defining Monster of all time. Karloff returns in *Bride Of Frankenstein* (1935) and *Son Of Frankenstein* (1939), then turns over the outfit to Lon Chaney, Jr, and others for *Ghost Of Frankenstein* (1941) and sequels. In 1948, Abbott and Costello meet Frankenstein.



Karloff, the original and best.

**1932** Universal announces Karloff will follow *Frankenstein* and *The Mummy* by starring in *The Wolf Man*. He doesn't.

**1935** Universal's first werewolf film, *Werewolf Of London*.

**1941** Universal finally makes *The Wolf Man*, with Lon Chaney, Jr, as tragic Lawrence Talbot, bitten by Bela the Gypsy (Bela Lugosi) and cursed to become hairy-faced and clawed under the full moon.

**1943** Universal makes *Frankenstein Meets The Wolf Man*. A problem - both had last been played by Lon Chaney, Jr. Lon sticks to Larry, and Lugosi gets the Monster boots. Lon's Larry returns in *House Of Frankenstein* (1944) and *House Of Dracula* (1945), in which he is cured and gets the girl, but is cursed again in *Abbott And Costello Meet Frankenstein* (1948).



"This guy can be Van Helsing!"

**1957** *I Was A Teenage Frankenstein!* Oh, and *I Was A Teenage Werewolf!* Peter Cushing picks up the scalpel as the Baron in Hammer's *The Curse Of Frankenstein*; the series runs until *Frankenstein And The Monster From Hell* (1973). Whereas Universal followed The Monster in its sequels, Hammer sticks with the Baron - whose experiments include *Frankenstein Created Woman* (1967) and conclusively prove that *Frankenstein Must Be Destroyed* (1969)!

**1958** Christopher Lee swings his cape in Hammer's *Dracula*, aka *Horror Of Dracula*. He hisses, fang-snarls and slobbers blood more than Lugosi, and returns in sequels from *Dracula - Prince Of Darkness* (1964) to *The Satanic Rites Of Dracula* (1973) - the wildest are *Taste The Blood Of Dracula* (1969) and *Dracula AD 1972* (1972).

**1961** Hammer has a go at *The Wolf Man*, as Oliver Reed suffers *The Curse Of The Werewolf*.

**1964** Herman Munster makes his TV debut, domesticating Frankenstein's Monster as a sitcom star.

**1972** William Marshall is *Blacula!* NB: Not to be confused with *Deafula*, *Spermula*, *Gayracula* and *Dracula*.

**1973** *Frankenstein: The True Story*, a big respectable mini-series version, the first to use the novel's trapeze to the Arctic Circle as an ending. *Flesh For Frankenstein*, with Udo Kier as the Baron, is gruesome fun, with the most entrails ever exposed (and fondled) in a Frankenstein film.

**1974** Jack Palance is in the first film called *Bram Stoker's Dracula*, which makes a connection between Stoker's vampire and the historical Vlad the Impaler.

**1977** Louis Jourdan is the BBC's *Count Dracula*, the most faithful version of the book.

**1979** Frank Langella's disco-look Drac in John Badham's *Dracula*; Klaus Kinski's ratface in Werner Herzog's *Nosferatu The Vampyre*; and George Hamilton's comedy Count in *Love At First Bite*.

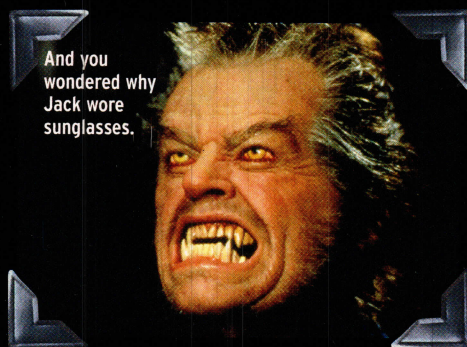
**1980** *The Drak Pack*, a TV series in which the sons of Universal's monsters - Drak, Jr, Frankie Frankenstein and Howler - team up to fight crime.

**1981** Bladder transformation effects bring back big-screen werewolves in Joe Dante's *The Howling* and John Landis's *An American Werewolf In London* - both of which refer constantly to *The Wolf Man*.

**1987** For the first time since Abbott and Costello, the Big Three - Dracula (Duncan Regehr), the Frankenstein Monster (Tom Noonan) and the Wolf Man (Jonathan Gries) - are back together, along with a mummy and a gill man, to face *The Monster Squad*. Hey, ditch the kids, bring in Wolverine and maybe there's a remake idea there!

**1992** Gary Oldman's queenly Count in Francis Ford Coppola's *Bram Stoker's Dracula*.

**1994** Kenneth Branagh's *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein*. And that TV movie with Randy Quaid and Patrick Bergin. Both remakes of *Frankenstein: The True Story*. Neither good. Also, publisher Will Randall, played by Jack Nicholson, becomes a werewolf and has to fight to keep his job in *Wolf*.



And you wondered why Jack wore sunglasses.

**Early 2000s** Guy Maddin's *Dracula: Pages From A Virgin's Diary*, Gerard Butler's Judas in *Dracula 2000*, Patrick Bergin's *Dracula's Kiss*. Peta Wilson as Dracula's victim in *LXG*. And some Wolfy action with *Ginger Snaps*, *Dog Soldiers* and, with a few vamps for good measure, *Underworld*.

KIM NEWMAN